

# ***FORESTVILLE FOCUS***

## ***Forestville United Methodist Church News***

***November, December, January 2024***

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### ***In Season and Out of Season***

October is beautiful. Some say it's the most beautiful month of the year.



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We'll have an opportunity to appreciate the bark, the trunks, the branches. Maybe not as fun? Maybe – but just as important. But for the Sun, which is the energy source for everything on Earth, what remains when the leaves fall are the power sources for every single, beautiful leaf that we eventually see. Without the plain, “ugly” trunks and branches doing their jobs, there would be no explosion of color we see every October.

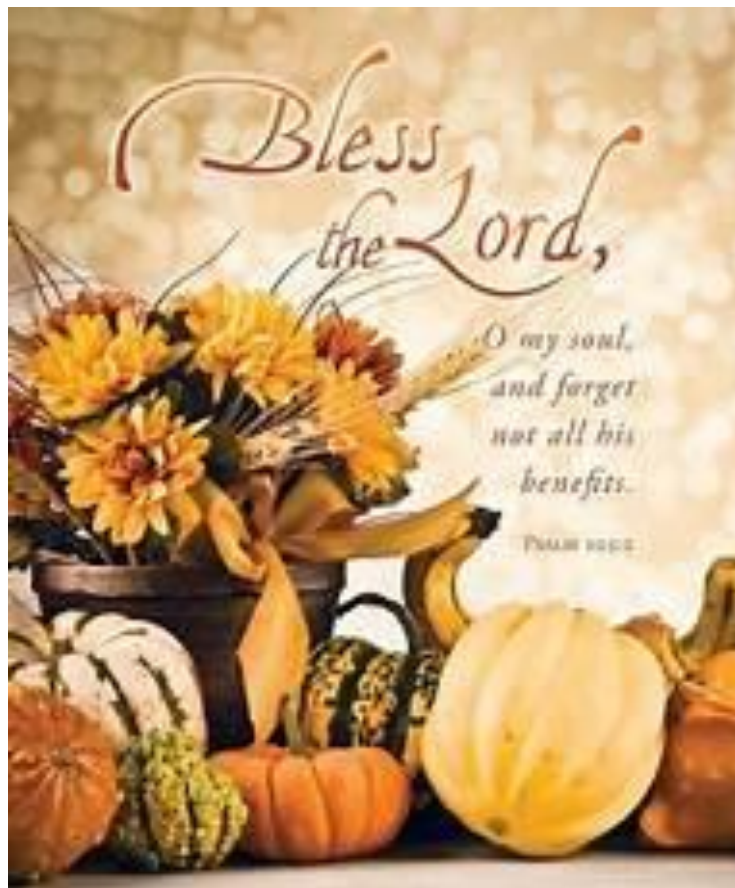
Jesus said, “I am the vine, you are the branches...Without me you can do nothing.” (John 15) He might just as easily have said, “I am the branches, you are the leaves...”

He also said, “Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.” (John 15) In this time of the natural “pruning” of leaves, let us be reminded that it is not the part of us that stretches daintily into the atmosphere that provides our enduring strength and support. It’s the part of us that is as steady as a tree trunk and the part that is rooted deeply into the ground.

It is our radical, cross-carrying faith meeting the goodness of the Son that provides us with every meaningful, spiritual thing that we have. Even as we appreciate each flighty, beautiful leaf of life, let us appreciate where it came from and prepare for more.

Praise God from whom all abundance flows,

Pastor Ken





## **Who is in the Pew?**

### **Featuring: Larry & Verna Stewart**

Just as beautiful as the trees of fall is the beauty of our church family. What a sincere privilege and great blessing to spend time with Larry and Verna Stewart as the three of us took time out of our Wednesday evening to focus on the beauty and specialness of Forestville UMC.

Larry identified the Methodist Men's Group as an experience in which he felt most engaged, alive, and motivated throughout his years at church. He shared that he finds enjoyment in helping repair and fix things for people in need. "It touched me most when my brother, Ron, experienced a house fire and we (the men's group) helped put the whole new frame up in just two days." Larry continued, "I also really enjoyed going to the Mission Barn. We patched the cement floors there as it was becoming difficult to wheel items across the damaged surface." Thank you, Larry, for giving of yourself in service to others!

Larry and Verna are quite the team... a power couple when it comes to serving others! Verna thoroughly finds pleasure and just pure fun in our spaghetti dinners! She shared, "I really enjoy helping prepare and pushing those great dinners out the door." What a blast the super spaghetti slingers have during the season, and it's hard to believe we only have one more dinner day left! Time to move on to soup, ya'll!

I must be honest. Just another reason I love this role of securing subjects for "Who is in the Pew?" is... I get to experience the memory of my dear grandma, Helen Osburn, being shared as an integral person in the lives of those I interview. Larry went on to say, "We used to sit behind Larry and Eddie Osburn's mom. One Sunday, Helen turned around and said, 'You need to join the choir. You have a beautiful voice.' That really made me feel good. Helen is the reason why I am in the choir today." God bless her soul and it makes me smile such a proud smile to

be told what an impact she made on others and the future of our church. Well done, Gram! 😊

It's evident that our church lifts one another up in times of stress and sorrow as Verna mentioned, "It was a wonderful and thoughtful thing when my mother passed... I remember receiving a lovely flower arrangement brought to me by the ladies' group. I have fond memories of the UMW group." The Stewarts also have sincere appreciation for the prayer chain, stating, "It's so comforting knowing we can simply make one call to activate a multitude of people to pray for our loved ones." As we support one another in troubled times, we certainly celebrate and rejoice the good news too! Speaking of rejoicing and singing praises, both Larry and Verna couldn't express enough the love of our Sunday service music and the special cantatas. "The music is such a big part of our church." Can I get an amen, readers?!? I'm confident you're nodding in agreement! The talent of Debby and Carol is unmatched! We are truly blessed.

A final thought of Verna's was shared regarding a wish she has for the future of our church. "Perhaps we can offer more potluck gatherings a few more times a year on a Sunday afternoon." I'm certainly in favor as we know the degree of deliciousness we experience at every gathering! YUM! Another great idea included offering a movie night! Let's get that popcorn a poppin' & bring your favorite soft drink! I'm in!

As we wrapped up our conversation, Larry & Verna offered how much they love how down-to-earth our congregation is. "No one feels better than anyone else... everyone is so easy to talk to... we are more like family." At Forestville, I agree, we are family. Nobody is left behind or forgotten. We're unique like that! 😊





## OCTOBER 2024

The United Women in Faith (UWIF) has been busy these last few months. In August we spent a day at the Mission Barn. Our work this visit included checking floor buckets and hygiene kits, and celebrating Shirley's birthday. We had a great day! The work done by the Mission Barn is so worthwhile. We have recently supported the flood bucket ministry with a monetary donation as the recent hurricanes have depleted their supply. We would like to invite you all to join us for our next visit on Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>.

Alison Vlasnik presented a wonderful overview of her mission trip to Zambia at our October meeting. Alison's love of mission work was fostered through her involvement in CRU when she was a student at SRU. UWIF was honored to play a small role in her mission work in Zambia and get to know her. Her passion for mission work was evident as she shared with us.

Soup, soup, soup is the UWIF theme for the coming months. Our first soup sale will be November 13, 2024. Due to the difficulty we have had in getting soup supplies recently, the cut-off date for orders is November 3<sup>rd</sup>. To order soup, there will be a sign-up sheet in the church vestibule. In addition, a call to Shirley Osburn (724) 556-9854 or any UWIF member will reserve your order. All soup will be \$7.00 a quart. The choices remain the same: chicken noodle, vegetable beef, broccoli cheese or ham and bean.

All are welcome to join us for our Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, meeting to be held at Debby Fye's house at 2:00 PM. We would like to invite all women to join us for our annual Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, at the Iron Bridge. If you can attend, contact any member or sign up in the vestibule.



## **MONTHLY MISSIONS**

November - UMCOR DOMESTIC DISASTER RELIEF - Due to the recent hurricanes in the south, we chose to contribute again to the ongoing relief efforts.

December - ISAIAH 117 HOUSE, BUTLER COUNTY - This is a recent startup right here in Butler County. Their mission is to provide a safe place for children removed from their homes to stay until they enter a foster home. It helps reduce trauma for children awaiting placement, lighten the load for child welfare services like Butler County children and youth services, and ease the transition for foster families.

January - FEED MY SHEEP FOOD CUPBOARD in Slippery Rock – This is an ongoing need serving our surrounding community.

All additional money donated for MISSIONS will be added to the monthly budgeted fund.

Thank you for your support.

## **SPAGHETTI DINNERS**

Pastor Steve Soltis inspired us to launch our spaghetti dinners to raise money for missions back in 2000. Since then, we have continued to help many individuals and organizations in our community and beyond.

2024 has been successful with our drive-thru dinners. To recap this year's missions, we were able to fund the Harrisville VFD, SR Feed My Sheep Food Cupboard, UMCOR Domestic Disaster Relief, Mission Barn, UMC Camping Fund, Ruth M. Smith Center, Operation Christmas Child, Isaiah 117 House in Butler Co., Veterans in Need Fund Butler Co., City Rescue Mission, and a local family.

As we work together during our spaghetti dinners, we become God's hands on Earth to help our community. Thank you for your donations of time, food supplies, preparation, and the physical labor that goes into packing and delivering the dinners to the waiting customers. It takes all of us working together for this mission work to continue. Many hands make light work, especially when helping others.



Everyone is welcome to attend our monthly church council meetings the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7 PM. All of you have a voice in the decisions of the Church, and this is the time to come and share your voice as we continue being stewards of this wonderful church. Our usual attendance at the meetings is only 5 - 8 people. We need YOUR ideas, suggestions, and support.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Church Conference October 3 at Harrisville. It's important to meet with our District Superintendent yearly and vote on items for the good of our church.

Our approved 2025 church budget and 2025 committee members are included in this newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support to keeping our church running smoothly.

Hope to see you at the November 13<sup>th</sup> council meeting!

## trustees

The interior painting is done and looks great! It has been 20 years since it was last painted. Thank you, Foster Painting! Thank you for your donations to this project.

Kirk Weaver from Pittsburgh Stained Glass is honoring our contract price from 2022 for the upcoming repair job and the installation of a tinted storm window for the window above the pulpit door. Unfortunately, due to a shortage of trained labor, his jobs are being delayed. Our windows are next in line, depending on the weather. This project is already fully funded for the entire contracted price.

The Trustee Committee has a list of small repairs and projects for the upcoming year. We are working on finalizing a price for an outdoor shed for the lawn mower, ladder, and outdoor supplies. We will start a shed fund once we have a price.

Thank you all for your monetary and physical support in our ongoing projects to keep our church in good shape. Your support is truly appreciated.



# **RECIPE CORNER**

## **CALICO BEANS- THERESA THOMAS**

12 slices Bacon - browned & crumbled

1 lb. Ground Meat - browned

½ C. Brown Sugar

1 Tbsp. Dry Mustard

2 cans Pork 'n Beans

1 can Lima Beans -drained

1 can Kidney Beans - drained

½ C. Ketchup

1 Tbsp. White Vinegar

½ tsp. Salt

Stir all ingredients together in a bowl and then transfer into a crock pot.

Cook on low for 3-5 hours.

## **Stuffed Chicken Shells – Connie Osburn**

1 Box Jumbo Shells (Cooked until al dente, drain)

1 Box Stove Top Stuffing

1 Cup Mayonaise

1/2 cup diced Celery

1/2 cup diced Onion

Diced Chicken (optional)

Mix prepared stuffing, mayo, celery, and onion.

Stuff shells.

Mix 1 can Chicken Broth and

2 cans Cream of Chicken Soup.

Pour over shells.

Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes.





## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CARD

Please consider participating in the annual church Christmas card. This is your opportunity to reach out and send a personal message to our brothers and sisters in Christ. **Crystal Arblaster** is already working on the covers.

The form for your message is below. Your message and donations are due by **Sunday, December 1**. You may bring it to church, send it with your offering, or mail it directly to **Carol Miller**, 1153 W. Liberty Rd., Slippery Rock, PA 16057.

Thank you for your continuing support of this project. All monetary donations are given to the church.

Name

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Greeting: (i.e. Dear Friends,)

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Christmas Message: (Please look through catalogs or cards to find a message or give me a card to use. I will return the card to you.)

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Closing: (i.e. In Christian Love,)

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Signed:

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**Please give this paper and your donation to Carol by December 3.**



**We are also putting together a congregation address book. We hope you are willing to participate. If you submit your information, you will receive a booklet with everyone's information so you can call them or send cards whenever you want. Please give this form to Carol to include in our booklet.**

**Name**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Address**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell**  
**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_ **Anniversary date**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Birthday** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Don't need to include year unless you want)

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Birthday** \_\_\_\_\_

**Others in the household: (Add more as needed)**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Birthday** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Birthday** \_\_\_\_\_